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Argonauts seal the deal with U of T rival York

Franchise joins CSA in new \$70 million stadium deal at York U

By Julie Tyios

At a press conference last Monday, the Toronto Argonauts announced their decision to enter into a partnership with York University. The announcement came just three weeks after U of T dropped out of a plan with the Argos to build a new stadium at the old Varsity Stadium site on Bloor street in Toronto.

The Argonauts, along with the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA), publicly announced their decision to join York in the creation of a new 25,000 seat stadium. In addition to being the Argo's home field, the on-campus facility will be used for various CSA soccer matches and the many York sports teams.

The stadium will be part of a new recreation complex to be built by the university, and will house the 2007 FIFA World Youth Championships, hosted by the CSA. This event is projected to pump more than \$15 million into the city

of Toronto's economy.

U of T had originally planned to accommodate both the Argos and the CSA in a similar partnership, which, after many months of planning and debate, was dropped by the university last month. Rising costs were cited as the reason for abandoning the project, but some parties involved in the deal alluded to political motives being the real culprit.

"We will be considering various options for the future of the Varsity site but to say more at this point would be premature."

- Jessica Whiteside, U of T public affairs

The new York stadium is projected to cost \$70 million, \$20 million of which will be paid by the Argonauts franchise as well as any annual deficit that should arise. The federal government has agreed to contribute more than \$27 million towards the cost of the project and York will foot \$15 million of the bill. The remaining \$8 million will come from the Ontario government.

"This \$70 million project is an example of successful co-operation between governments, York University, amateur and profession-

al sports," said the Honorable Joe Volpe, federal minister responsible for the GTA.

The decision to drop the stadium deal has left U of T without an athletics venue for its teams to play in. U of T will have to seek other partners to assist in the funding of the

future Varsity Stadium, currently being redesigned to accommodate a strict budget.

"We wish York University well with its new stadium project. U of T was very excited about plans for a new stadium on the Varsity site but we were forced to withdraw

from the most recent proposal because of escalating costs" said Jessica Whiteside of the U of T public affairs. "We will be considering various options for the future of the Varsity site but to say more at this point would be premature."



photo/Denyse Gibson

With a new home stadium being built at York University, the Argos' use of UTM's south field for practice is up in the air. The parking lot and temporary buildings seen here could soon be returned to UTM's hands, minus the rent paid by the team.

SAC gains new ministries

By Daniel Filipe Martins

Student government underwent a major organizational shake-up last week, with changes being made to the various ministries that comprise SAC UTM. The changes, which will come into effect this week, mean that some SAC ministries will be downgraded to commission status, while three new ministries have been created.

The new ministries, *Academics, Equity, and Education & Outreach*, were included in an attempt to involve more students in the political process at UTM, and to provide more services both to students and SAC commissioners alike. Other ministries, such as Mentorship, have been downgraded to committee status, but will still play a significant role within SAC UTM.

The purpose of the ministry of Education & Outreach, according to SAC Vice President UTM, Moneeza Ahmed, is to educate students about upcoming issues on campus, such as the parking situation, study space and the Rae Commission report. In addition, the ministry will also double as a forum for airing and dealing with complaints, both about the campus and about SAC itself.

"It will educate people within SAC about complaints, and deal with them," Ahmed said of the ministry.

The second new ministry, Academics, is expected to help students deal with problems of a specifically academic nature, and educate students about changes in university policy that affect them specifically.

"There are lots of changes taking place at UTM people just don't know

Ministries continued on page 3

Universities criticized by Rae Review

By Julie Tyios

According to former Ontario Premier Bob Rae, every university in the province is in a sorry state to accommodate students.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Union of Public Employees submitted the results of a study conducted earlier this year for a report presented to the Ontario post-secondary review. The project, headed by Rae, features his own reports on Ontario universities. Throughout their study, the CUPE represented academic and support workers, other unions, faculty associations and student groups at 13 universities.

Entitled "Un-ranking Ontario's universities: Final Report from the CUPE Campus Check-up," the report outlines why Ontario academic institutions are not up to par, noting that private partnerships and corporate sponsorships create a gap between arts, science and business faculties.

Also touched upon was the decrease in accessibility to both professors and teaching assistants, and many other resources necessary for students to complete a successful education. It was noted that students are further burdened by the rising costs of education and accommoda-

tion, which is taking away the opportunity to attend a post-secondary institution for many students who are unable to afford it.

"With cumulative funding cuts of \$1.8 billion over the last eight years and increasing reliance on private partnerships and corporate sponsors, we're seeing a growing gap between arts programs and science and business" said Sid Ryan, CUPE Ontario president. "But no matter what they're studying, students are experiencing crowded classes, reduced access to teaching assistants and other resources, more expensive accommodation and dirtier buildings."

The Rae Review touched upon maintenance at many institutions, stating that as campuses grow and more buildings are erected, there is less staff to clean each properly. Funding cuts have accumulated an estimated \$1.7 billion in deferred maintenance costs.

As the two-year tuition freeze comes to an end following this academic year, many students may be faced with a large increase in the amount of debt they face following their education. A call for another tuition freeze and deregulation of fees by the McGuinty government will be accounted for in a formal report that

will be submitted to them at the end of the year. Several town hall meetings are to be held by Rae, which will examine the points of the Rae Review and encourage all who attend to participate in the CUPE's letter-writing campaign. Also challenged will be a request for the government to invest in university operating grants and replace the currently used SuperBuild with a publicly financed, accountable construction fund. The intention is to halt and reverse commercialization and corporate influence over academic programs and to ensure there are enough fully funded spaces in our universities for qualified prospective students.

"We're encouraging everyone to attend because post-secondary education is important to our whole province and everyone in it, whether you're a student, parent or worker. Post-secondary education affects us all. We're also encouraging anyone who can to join in the letter-writing campaign to Bob Rae" said Pat Daley of CUPE Communications.

The first town hall meeting for U of T is to be held on October 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Matthews Auditorium at Kanef Centre, and all are encouraged to attend. For more information visit <http://www.cupe.on.ca>.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Most students don't even know who Warren is."

- 4th year CCIT student
Cari Salih, on Warren's Birthday Pub, hosted by ECSU

MEAN GIRLS - 12PM AND 4:30PM

ALIEN VS PREDATOR - 2PM AND 6PM

THE TERMINAL - 12PM

Fahrenheit 9/11 - 2:00PM

Questions? Comments? Requests? E-mail us at thevoice@utoronto.ca
Vote for movies at www.utoronto.ca/voice

Students angered by ECSU pub night

By JULIE TYIOS

Questions have been raised in regards to the Erindale College Student Union's (ECSU) ethics following a seemingly exclusive birthday party held last week for Services Coordinator Warren Wai.

The highly publicized event generated much criticism from students on campus. ECSU, who controls advertising at UTM for student groups, seemingly broke their own advertising rules, according to student complaints. A multitude of flyers and posters were found all over campus, taped over windows, important signs and over most of the unused wall and post space in the Student Centre.

The pub night, advertised first and foremost as 'Warren's Birthday Pub', was also advertised as both 'Licence2ill' and 'Frosh Leader Appreciation Night part 3', leaving many students wondering why the event had three names.

Many students have also questioned ECSU's use of student money in funding the pub night, as many felt that it was an exclusive event for a person who is not known by all students on campus.

"Most students don't even know who Warren is," complained Cari Salib, a fourth year CCIT student. "It just seems like they're using the pub to throw an exclusive birthday party for one of their members. They're trying to cover it as Frosh Leader Appreciation Night part 3, but honestly, how many of those are they going to have? Frosh Week is long over."

Many students were upset about the birthday party aspect of the pub night; many under the assumption that student money was used to purchase the cake, loot bags and party hats that were given out to all in attendance. Several students felt it was a repeat of an incident that happened two years ago with the Students' Administrative Council (SAC),

when former President Rocco Kusi-Achampong used \$20,000 of student money to host his own exclusive birthday party at the Toronto club, the Guvemment. For this and other reasons, Kusi-Achampong was removed from his position.

"This was not intended to be an exclusive pub" said ECSU president Sean O'Connell. "Both that and the Frosh Leader Appreciation Night aspect of it were simply used as advertising tactics to get some more people out. It was meant to be run as a normal pub night with no apparent theme. We tossed out a bunch of names, and Licence2ill is what was chosen, which is simply a spoof on a song by the Beastie Boys."

According to ECSU's assurances that the pub would be packed for the evening, a total of just under 130 advance tickets were sold for the event, and nearly 200 people attended the event in total.

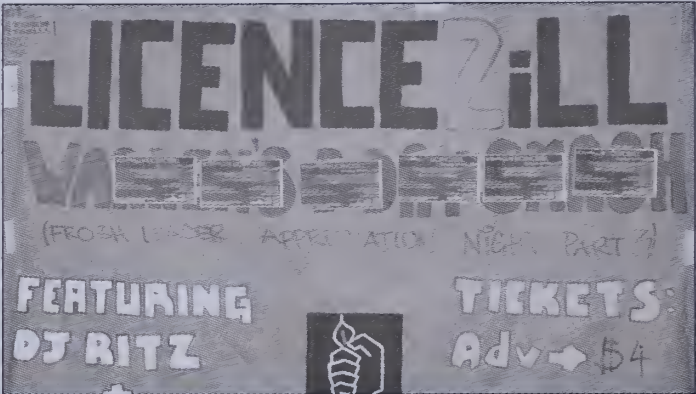
"Anything that was related to Warren's birthday was not covered by ECSU as an organization" said ECSU's VP Finance, Eric Palmitesta. "Those were personally paid for out of the pockets of council members and a sponsorship from Puma. The only things covered by ECSU were the pub rental, DJs and their equipment, which is what we cover for any pub night. There was a bit of a deficit for the normal pub costs which were not covered by ticket sales, and that will be covered by the budget as is standard."

Many students felt that advertising rules were also broken in regards to the pub night, as flyers littered the campus.

"I don't agree with the advertisements up everywhere on campus, especially the student center, and how ECSU can fine and suspend other clubs for breaking their own advertisement rules" said Kiarash Fatemi, a third year CCIT Student.

"We had volunteers who had done the advertising for this event" said O'Connell. "We ended up removing much of the advertising and removing the portion that said it was Warren's birthday pub following a number of student complaints. It seemed to me those

students were satisfied with the way that we had addressed those issues and so I didn't perceive a problem. ECSU pays for advertising for pub events; however any flyers that were printed up proclaiming it to be Warren's birthday are going to be paid for personally by Warren."



photo/Denise Gibson

Advertisements like this poster in the South Building for last Thursday's pub left students angry over ignored restrictions and a seemingly exclusive event.

CSA/SPC partnership to help students

By JULIE TYIOS

Students are set to see some improvements happen if they take advantage of the new partnership recently formed between the College Students' Alliance (CSA) and the Student Price Club.

The CSA, established in 1967, became in 1996 a non-profit, non-governmental organization, a provincial organization that works with Ontario colleges. It began drastic changes to its operations in October of 2003, under new management. It states in its mandate that it will always strive to save students money, provide student unions with alternate sources of revenue and work with external

specialists to build better student programs at post-secondary institutes.

In partnering with the SPC, the CSA will be able to further expand its resources and reach many more post-secondary institutions with its new additional funding to its 22 councils and 92,000 members.

"As a system, Ontario's post-secondary institutions have suffered numerous provincial budget cuts causing severe service reduction and impact to the quality of our learning experience. Whether you're a college student or university student, those cuts are equally deep and painful. Our hope is that, in our own small way, we can provide some relief to students through programs and ser-

vices like the SPC/CSA partnership," said Frank Cappadocia, general manager of the CSA.

The SPC offers students a discount card to use at various locations in which they can save money. Students purchase these cards for a fee which in turn helps to fund the organization.

"For their part, SPC continues to provide CSA with a number of free cards which we share with students throughout the province, and funding support for our General Assemblies - where we help make student governments stronger and more active participants on their campus and in the outside world" explained Cappadocia.

More information can be found online at www.csaontario.org.

Events on Campus

Xpression Against Oppression

When: November 1st - 5th
Where: Student Centre
What: Speakers, demonstrations and events to raise awareness on world-wide forms of oppression.

Flu Clinic

When: Wednesday, November 3rd from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Student Centre Presentation Room
What: Free flu shots to all students courtesy of Health Services

Alcoholics Anonymous

When: Sundays @ 2:30 p.m.
Where: South Building
What: Group support for those suffering from alcoholism.

Got an event on campus?

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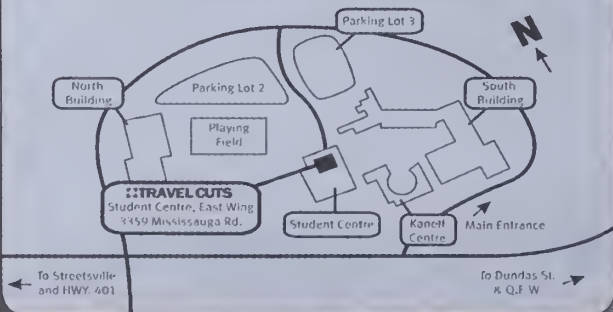
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Student Centre

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Campus Police Reports

October 7/04 08:45 hrs

Theft Under \$5000.00

Theft of a Parking permit. The theft occurred off-campus.

October 7/04 13:40 hrs

Fire Alarm

University Police and Mississauga Fire Dept. responded to a fire alarm at CCIT buildings. The cause of the alarm was due to dust from construction work.

The system was reset.

October 7/04 16:20 hrs

Theft Under \$5000.00

Theft of a University textbook from the Library.

October 7/04 19:10 hrs

Playground Accident

A young child was playing on some equipment near Schreiberwood residence. The child accidentally got herself stuck in the equipment. Mississauga Fire Dept. was dispatched to the scene where they were able to safely free the child.

October 10/04 00:30 hrs

Liquor Licence Act

Three non-community members were charged under the Liquor Licence Act for displaying open liquor in public. Subsequently one of the males was also charged with Public Intoxication.

October 10/04 01:40 hrs

Unauthorized Party

University Police shut down an unauthorized party at a residence. The occupants of the residence complied.

October 11/04 14:45 hrs

Motor Vehicle Collision

A vehicle lost control and drove partially onto the grass and then ran over a speed sign. There was extensive damage to the vehicle and minor damage to U of T property.

October 12/04 10:46 hrs

Theft Under \$5000.00

Theft of parking permit. The theft occurred off campus.

October 12/04 14:35 hrs

Theft Under \$5000.00

Theft of a University textbook from the Library.

October 12/04 15:45 hrs

Theft Under \$5000.00

Theft of a University textbook from the Library.

October 13/04 22:05 hrs

Property Damage

Report of a broken window in the Meeting Place.

October 14/04 10:00 hrs

Unsafe driving and damage to a vehicle

Report of minor damage to a vehicle due to unsafe driving in Parking Lot 1.

October 15, 2004 03:13 hrs

Persons Trapped in Elevator

University Police and Mississauga Fire Department attended to 5 people

trapped inside an elevator in the CCIT Building.

October 15, 2004 00:15 hrs

Theft Under \$5000

A UTM student reported the theft of his parking permit from his vehicle.

October 15, 2004 09:30 hrs

Fail to Remain

A UTM student reported that her car had been struck by another vehicle that had left the scene.

October 15, 2004 17:15 hrs

Threatening

University and Peel Police investigated a report of a male student being threatened by another male regarding his dating of a female student.

October 16, 2004 16:26 hrs

Personal Injury

University Police and ambulance responded to an injured soccer player at the north field.

October 17, 2004 03:15 hrs

Harassment

University Police investigated a complaint by a group of female residence students regarding harassment by a group of males near their unit.

October 18, 2004 14:20 hrs

Criminal Harassment

A UTM student reported unwanted contact and harassment from an ex-boyfriend.

October 18, 2004 15:39 hrs

Theft Under \$5000

A student reported the theft of his textbook after he left it unattended while using the library.

October 18, 2004 16:17 hrs

Theft Under \$5000

A student reported the theft of her books from outside the bookstore.

October 18, 2004 16:00 hrs

Theft Under \$5000

University Police received a report of a stolen permit from a vehicle.

October 19, 2004 14:20 hrs

Motor Vehicle Accident

Two vehicles collided as one exited a parking lot. No injuries.

October 19, 2004 20:30 hrs

Trespassing, Soliciting

Several drivers complained to University Police that they found advertisements that resembled parking tickets on their windshields.

October 19, 2004 11:32 hrs

Suspicious Person

A UTM student reported a male near his unattended laptop in the library whom he suspected may have been planning to steal it. The complainant reported the incident the day after it happened and provided University Police with a description of the male.

October 20, 2004 03:10 hrs

Noise Complaint

University Police dealt with a noise complaint at Erindale Hall.

Vibe Radio has official campus launch

BY ADIL F. MIRZA

On Monday October 4, VIBE Radio launched the start of their 2004-05 programming season. UTM's campus radio station is now back with the majority of airtime covered by DJs, as opposed to the rhythmic drone of the auto-broadcast that played on air until the end of September.

In order to prepare for the start of the new season, they ran an advertising campaign that included colourful chalk along the five minute walk, which students have described as "the pathway to VIBE radio". The huge emphasis on advertising was done to get the word out about the new season and the radio station itself.

"I think the campaign had a positive impact [on the UTM community]. Students learned about VIBE radio - some students didn't even know we had a campus college radio station" said VIBE radio personality and promotions manager Sunny Pathak.

The end of the official launch party will be highlighted by a free concert taking place at the Student Centre on Thursday October 28, featuring the musical talent of Jersey, a punk act from Burlington, and Bedouin Soundclash, a reggae-influenced rock band. The concert is a charity event being held in association with the Red Cross Society to raise funds for their Caribbean Hurricane Relief Fund.

"Grenada is a particularly devastating example where Hurricane Ivan has damaged 90% of the buildings, leaving 60% of the population homeless and without water or electricity. The students I have spoken to are pretty concerned about the disaster and are happy UTM is doing something to help" said Ananda Korchynski, station manger at VIBE Radio.

In regards to the future of VIBE 91.9 FM, there is seemingly plenty in store. VIBE contributed heavily to Frosh Week

2004, organizing concerts and a trip to Wonderland for all frosh.

"After the success of the Wonderland concert that we put together with SAC for Frosh Week, we wanted to continue the same trend of bringing more spirit and excitement to the UTM campus," noted deputy station manger, Teddy Scott. "We are going to be doing a lot of events this year; everything from concerts with well known artists to having big name artists in the studio for interactive interviews, tons of contests, free giveaways, charity events such as a pro basketball game and interac-

tive programming to get UTM involved with VIBE."

They seem to have gotten students at UTM excited as well. Many new radio programs are airing at the discretion of DJs and there has been a bigger emphasis on live shows this year as opposed to those previous.

"I'm totally impressed with VIBE this year - I'm sure we'll be seeing lots of great things happening" said third year biology student, Vik Singh.

VIBE radio can be heard on campus at 91.9 FM or online at www.feelthevibe.org

Fall is in the air...



photo/Adrian Barek

UTM's Fall Campus Open House welcomed prospective students and families with themed decorations in the CCIT Building last Sunday.

UTM Meeting Today

Make your voice heard

Come to the U of T Townhall Meetings about the Rae Review of Higher Education in Ontario.

Your input is important to the university and will help inform U of T's official submission to the Rae Review.

U of T at Mississauga

Monday, October 25, 2004

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Matthews Auditorium, Room 137

Kaneff Centre

St. George Campus

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Claude T. Bissell Bldg. Room 205

U of T at Scarborough

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Council Chambers,

S Wing, Room S403

For more information, go to

www.raereview.utoronto.ca



University of Toronto

Ministries to help SAC

Continued from page 1

about," Ahmed said. In addition to simple education, the Academics ministry will take on a more proactive role, offering help to students pursuing academic appeals and complaints against teaching assistants. Academics will further attempt to represent students by engaging the curriculum committees in each individual academic department, presenting a student perspective on what courses should be offered.

The final ministry, Equity, was founded

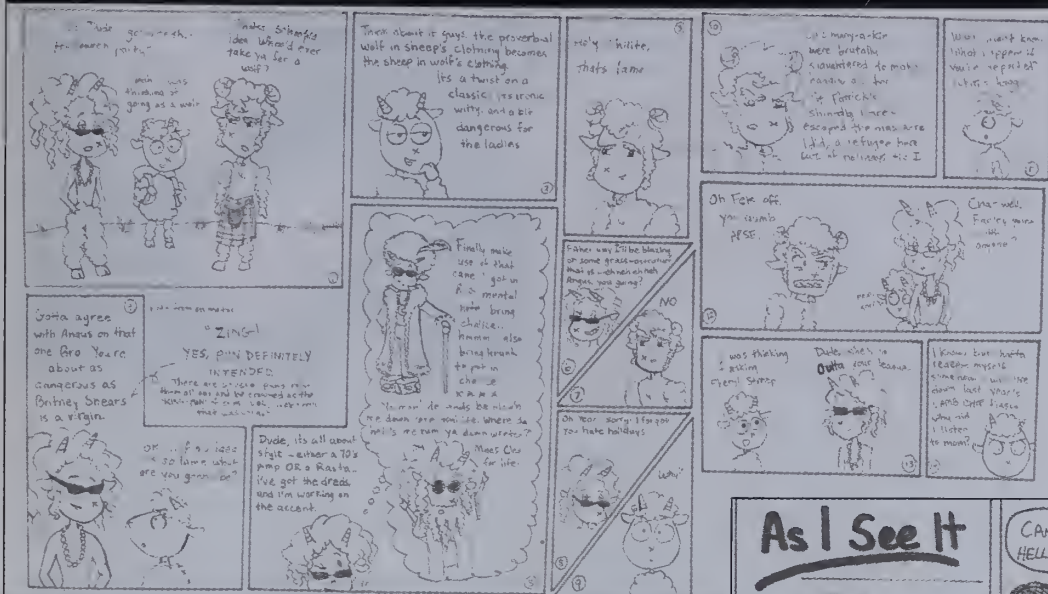
out of a major need, according to Ahmed, noting how many times there are issues that arise on campus in which students feel threatened by discrimination. The Equity ministry will, she hoped, rectify that to a certain extent. SAC already promotes anti-racism initiatives, as well as unity through diversity, and students who feel they have suffered discrimination in some way will be encouraged to go to SAC with their grievance. Programs which Equity plans to pursue include a food bank and a 'dollar for daycare' initiative.

THE MEDIUM

Please submit letters via e-mail to editor@mediumonline.ca.

I am Lamb

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Pimp	Clown	Hippie	Pumpkin
Schoolgirl	Pirate	Ghost	
Witch	Cheerleader	Nurse	

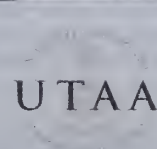
Two guys are sitting in a bar. The first guy says to the second guy, “Do you know what I’m going to do tonight?” The second guy shrugs his shoulders and says, “No, what are you going to do?” The first guy looks him right in the eye and says, “I’m gonna fuck your mother.” The second guy shakes his head and says, “All right Dad, you’ve had enough to drink, let’s go home.”

The Medium is looking for cartoonists willing to contribute material on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your talent to a wide audience while building a portfolio. If you can draw funnies, give us a call!

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the 2005 Awards of
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The University of Toronto Alumni Association invites nominations for the:

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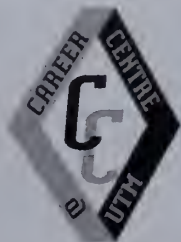
CHANCELLOR'S AWARD: \$1,000
For outstanding contributions by an administrative staff member.

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For a student, alumnus/a, administrative staff or faculty member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of academic or extra-curricular student life on campus.

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A prize recognizing positive and lasting contributions to education and action in the fight against discrimination. Faculty, staff and students may be nominated for this award.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004, 5 P.M.

For further information or nomination forms, please contact
the Division of University Advancement, J Robert S. Prichard Alumni House,
21 King's College Circle, 3rd Floor. Tel: (416) 978-6536 or e-mail linda.wells@utoronto.ca
Information and nomination forms are also available at www.alumni.utoronto.ca



Wednesday, Oct. 27, 11:00-2:00
Student Centre

Don't miss the biggest annual career fair at UTM! This is your chance to network with representatives from a wide range of industries about career paths and employment opportunities within their organizations and what types of skills, experience and education are required. Students in all programs and all years are encouraged to attend.

Over 35 participating organizations including: GE Canada, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, HMV, RBC Financial Group, Toronto Fire Services, Ontario Internship Program, Erinoak, CIBC Mellon Trust, CGI, Correctional Services, ING Canada, Consulate General of Japan, Dell Canada, Home Depot, News Marketing Canada, Toyota, FedEx, and many more!

Learn how to prepare and view the complete list at www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/expo2004.html

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thought-provoking dialogue and imagery haunts *Ghost*

FILM REVIEW

Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence

BY JOHANNA KRISTOLAITIS

Knowing that *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence* is a sequel, I assumed I would be lost before the movie even began, since I hadn't seen the original. Thankfully, the film opens with text recapping its predecessor,

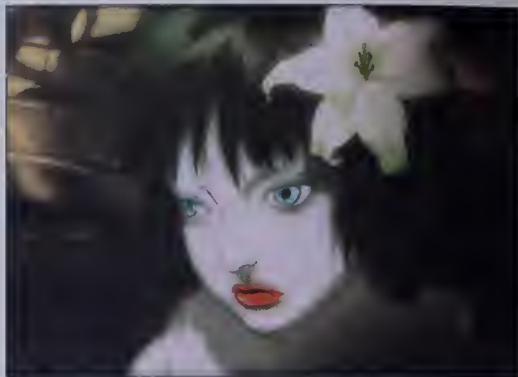
bringing everyone up to date before launching into a stunning bird's eye view of the city that is the focus of much of the film.

In 2032, many humans have mechanized parts, including Batou, a cyborg agent for the anti-terrorist unit Public Safety Section 9. He and his new partner, Togusa, are assigned to investigate several homicides committed by dolls, which are life-sized robots, against

their human owners. Early in the investigation it becomes clear that these are a new breed of dolls designed to be sexual companions. But why are they violating their moral programming and attacking humans? The answers are found at the end of a maze of questions probing into the nature of humanity and reality.

The animation in this film combines three dimensional images of

buildings and backgrounds with two dimensional characters, adding to the surreal nature of this futuristic story. The plot takes so many turns that several viewings are necessary to really grasp what is happening, especially as the beautiful visual composition of each sequence



The vacant stare of the gynoid (doll) and its idealized human form separate it from humans, but by how much?

distracts from reading the subtitles. While it is likely that a dubbed version will be out eventually, hearing the original language of the film adds to its appeal.

The most mind-boggling sequence in the movie is when Batou and Togusa visit Kim, a hacker, after someone hacks into Batou's e-brain and causes him to initiate a shooting spree while shopping for dog food. After finding Kim, reality becomes blurred as the film loops backwards multiple times to a previous point. It is never clear which parts are real and which were a result of Kim's clever manipulations.

Both *Ghost in the Shell* movies were based on the manga (comic) by Shirow Masamune, though their storylines are entirely new from any-

thing in the original comic. Masamune gave Oshii complete creative control over the films. Oshii's work with Production I.G., the animation studio he uses for all his anime films, resulted in a visually amazing film, complimented by Kenji Kawai's original music and the theme song "Follow Me" by Kimiko Itoh.

Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence is recognized among the world's best films. It was the first Japanese animation film to vie for the coveted Palme d'Or, the top prize at the Cannes International Film Festival. The fact that it didn't win this hard-to-come-by honour is not a reflection of the quality of the film. It is thought-provoking in its words, ideas, and images.

Surviving this Christmas flick is tough

FILM REVIEW

Surviving Christmas

BY JOHN ARMSTRONG

The release of *Surviving Christmas* constitutes a disturbing new trend in holiday movies; the bawdy and violent Christmas movie has officially become a seasonal institution. What *Billy Bob Thornton* began last year in *Bad Santa* is continued by director *Mike Mitchell* (*Deuce Bigelow*) in this family holiday spoof.

Ben Affleck, playing Chicago ad pitchman Drew, attempts to impersonate **Chevy Chase**, but ends up appearing more deranged than loveably goofy. Chase's secret weapon in this type of broad comedy is his underlying aura of childlike innocence. Affleck by contrast, comes off as very dim and possibly dangerously evil. To be fair, the writers have failed him miserably here. When the best material includes tortured quips about "selling whale steaks to Greenpeace" it's clear there was not an abundance of good ideas. Affleck's choice of roles lately indicates that nobody in the post-Bennifer camp is bothering to read the scripts.

Drew's holiday misadventures begin when his girlfriend dumps him for attempting to flee Christmas entirely by taking her on a romantic trip to Fiji. Left with no one to share yuletide celebrations, Drew decides



Tom (James Gandolfini) gets annoyed with Drew (Ben Affleck).

to soothe his troubled soul by renting his childhood home and paying the current residents, the Valcos, to be his substitute family for the season.

The predictable strained romance between Drew and Alicia Valco (played by **Christina Applegate**) begins when she returns home to find her household invaded by a neurotic and pathologically over-enthusiastic stranger. This leads to a surreal scene where Drew attempts to woo Alicia by taking her tobogganing at the local park; he is disappointed by the smallness of what was, in his childhood memory, a mighty sled run. The scene cuts to a helicopter whisking the couple off to an alpine peak that is apparently located somewhere in the Himalayas. Some very bad special effects ensue.

James Gandolfini's performance as the Valco family patriarch Tom does little to rescue this film from its own sickening plunge. Confusion

about his character reigns supreme. Although Tom delivers a few zingy lines in an attempt to broaden Gandolfini's appeal beyond gangster type roles, his jolliness is offset by occasional death threats and a vicious attack on Drew with a snow shovel. Gandolfini spends almost the entire picture shuffling around in a baggy lumberjack outfit and squinting from behind a scraggly beard that mercifully hides his embarrassment at being involved in this project.

The less said about **Catherine O'Hara** as Tom's long-suffering spouse Christine, the better. Marginalized in a bit part, O'Hara's comedic input involves dressing up in an outfit that any respectable drag queen would term tasteless and subjecting herself to an ongoing gag about internet porn.

By the mid-point of the movie, I am thoroughly confused as to which direction the film is headed. Is this a comedy, suspense-thriller, sex farce, action flick or the dreaded romantic comedy? At one point the film even threatens to become a musical, featuring a duet by Affleck and Gandolfini. Just about the only thing this film doesn't try to be is funny.

If you're looking for garish scenery, characters in drag, bad singing and lame jokes, you could check out *Surviving Christmas*. However, you'd be better off catching a midnight screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

"Absolutely stunning... boasting dazzlingly evocative sequences. Oshii's vision is certainly impressive enough for this viewer to want to go back for more."

Midnight Eye - Jasper Sharp

"A stunning achievement of 21st Century anime."

Animation Magazine - Patrick Drazen

When machines learn to feel,
who decides what is human...

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TOP TEN

BY SCOTT PIETRANGELO

MODERN SCARY MOVIES

Forget *The Exorcist* being on the top of another scary movie list or cliché classics like *Silence of the Lambs*. The films that made this list are all sadly neglected horror movies that have come out since 1980. It's about time some of them are recognized!

Note: All of these films must be watched in the dark, late at night for full scary effect.

Honourable mentions: *Sleepy Hollow* (1999), *Hellraiser* (1987), *From Dusk Till Dawn* (1996), *Scream* (1996)

10. *The Thing* (1982) – Innovative creature effects and the theme of isolation are a creepy combination!

9. *Final Destination* (2000) – Some of the most visually elaborate deaths I've ever seen; no one in the theatre saw that bus coming.

8. *The Blair Witch Project* (1999) – Although some people hated this film, many others were utterly terrified! At first, it seems like a snuff film.

7. *Pet Semetary* (1989) – The diseased sister stashed in the attic is enough to make anyone reach for a blanket.

6. *The Ring* (2002) – As soon as you get to the first victim, you know this movie isn't going to be cheesy.

5. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (2003) – Much darker than the original, it is a terrifying ride that doesn't stop until the sound of the saw fades into the credits.

4. *The Others* (2001) – Nicole Kidman's genuinely terrified character, a creepy old house and a crazy twist at the end make this a definite scare-fest.

3. *What Lies Beneath* (2000) – Plenty of jumps, creepy scenes and a whole lot of tense, quiet moments to keep you on edge.

2. *28 Days Later* (2002) – If you can survive the first half hour of this zombie movie, you can sit through anything.

1. *Poltergeist* (1982) – Childhood nightmares come alive in this truly terrifying ghost story written by Steven Spielberg.

UNINTENTIONALLY CHEESY SCARY MOVIES

If you're not into scary this Halloween, you can laugh yourself to death with these poor attempts at being scary.

10. *Friday the 13th* (1980) – You can't help but laugh at the terrible acting and slow-mo decapitation ending.

9. *Salem's Lot* (1979) – A made-for-TV movie with the added bonus of seeing the wires that make vampires fly!

8. *Ticks* (1993) – A film about giant ticks starring Carlton from *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. 'Nuff said.

7. *Jason X* (2001) – Any slasher film reduced to taking place in space has definitely lost its franchise.

6. *Children of the Corn* (1984) – This film didn't make any sense and looked like it was filmed on a budget less than my tuition.

5. *Dawn of the Dead* (2004) – When the audience ends up cheering for the zombies, you've hit a dead end as a scary movie.

4. *Freddy Vs. Jason* (2003) – Jason has appeared three times on this list. I'm sensing a pattern.

3. *Return of the Living Dead* (1985) – There's nothing like zombies using a CB radio to send for more paramedics like they're ordering pizza.

2. *The Exorcist II: The Heretic* (1977) – This film's got everything: a flight on a moth's back, a trippy hypnotizing strobe light and an imploding house!

1. *The Evil Dead* (1981) – The original that spawned two brilliant (intentionally cheesy) sequels. This is guaranteed to bring you countless bizarre moments and every kind of cheese imaginable in a horror film.

Good Will towards Matt and Ben

THEATRE REVIEW Matt and Ben

BY ANDREA GRASSI

The critically acclaimed original off-Broadway hit *Matt and Ben* has captivated audiences from New York to Los Angeles and has finally come to Toronto. This play shows its own satirical rendition of the climb to success of Hollywood sweethearts **Matt Damon** and **Ben Affleck**. The play premiered October 6 and is still creating a huge buzz for theatre buffs and critics alike.

Matt and Ben is the tall tale of two boyhood friends (and struggling actors) who, through divine intervention, receive a screen play entitled *Good Will Hunting*, which literally falls from the ceiling of Ben's apartment. What they do with the screenplay and how their friendship evolves or suffers is the basis for this quirky original maeIdeas production.

In real life, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's *Good Will Hunting* screenplay became a movie and

won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay in 1997. This catapulted the two friends to the realm of stardom, riches, famous girlfriends, and better starring roles; making Matt Damon and Ben Affleck the definition of overnight success. Playing on the fact that the probability of this happening in someone's life is slim to none, the up-and-coming New Yorkers Mindy Kaling and Brenda Withers created a farcical story of Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's journey to success.

Originally, these playwrights performed the title roles of Matt and Ben themselves, and received rave reviews for their efforts. Since then, Hilary Doyle (Matt) and Jane Spence (Ben) have taken over the title roles, and do a fantastic job at that! They are so comfortable in their roles that you forget they are girls playing guys. Spence has experience in playing opposite gender roles from performing in a Theatre by the Bay production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Casting women in the title roles not only made this type of fairy tale story genderless, but also played on

the fact that the Matt Damon and Ben Affleck success story is an exceptional one. This cleverly emphasizes the unlikelihood of this loosely-based biography, a struggle to fame that the writers probably felt themselves, being freelance artists.

However, even if you aren't planning to analyze the workings of the performance, you can still have a great abdominal workout from laughing hard. Doyle and Spence blend perfectly, combining precision and versatility, which makes this little comedy - only 70 minutes - a hidden gem. I'm not joking when I say hidden either. It plays at the Poor Alex Theatre which I couldn't find the first time I tried to see the play! Nonetheless, as Matt says in the play, "good things come in strange packages." Although this play is tucked away in a little theatre in the Annex, it has a big enough heart and a loud enough voice to create its own fancy venue.

Matt and Ben plays until Nov 14 at the Poor Alex Theatre. For info visit www.mattandbenplay.com.

The Medium breaks into Social Code

Social Code's Logan Jacobs chats with *Johanna Kristolaitis* about where it all began and where it's going.

Who are the band members of Social Code?

I play bass, Travis Nesbitt, vocals, Ben Shillabeer, drums, and Chris Ruddy, guitar. Chris is also the lead singer for *Drive By Punch*; ultimately he may be a permanent member. It's great playing with a guitar player who's also a singer. We'll be doing some writing with him as well. It's really cool to have interesting melodies and counter-melodies and have two guys who can pull it off. There's good chemistry between him and Trav right now. He also creates disasters for us; he's the party animal. In a good way. He certainly draws attention.

Can you give an overview of the band's history?

Travis and I started the band in high school, about 8 years ago, called *Fifth Season* at that time. We recently changed to Social Code because of possible legal problems fighting for that name in other parts of the world. We've been a band for a long time and toured western Canada extensively, less in eastern Canada. This is our fourth time in this area and we'll be going back out east to the Maritimes as well.

At one point we signed a demo deal with Columbia. John, our A&R guy, which is the person who signs bands to a label, came out to Calgary and saw us and took us to shows in New York and other places. Unfortunately, he was let go so our deal was let go. He's now one of our managers, along with my dad Dan Jacobs. Part of the reason I tell this story is right after mixing this album, Jeff Blue, who was our A&R guy at Interscope, was let go. He did acts like Macy Gray and Limp Bizkit, but apparently we're the kiss of death for A&Rs. Thankfully the label stuck with us. Our A&R guy now is also in international promotions, so we're in very good hands.

Our album *A Year at the Movies* was recorded in Los Angeles. It was a lot of fun. Jeff Blue and Interscope brought us down there for about 5 months and we got to record at a few studios. Most of the album was recorded at Henson studios, like Jim Henson with the Muppets, so you could see Muppets and other film and TV things going on. And we met Bon Jovi because he was working on his album. Actually Bon

Jovi ended up being an influence on this album. *Slippery When Wet* was the most commonly listened to album of our whole L.A. experience.

Speaking of influences, who are some of your's?

We have a broad range of influences. We're definitely a rock band that listens to rock music. The Used, Billy Talent, as much for how they perform as for their music. We're big fans of groups like Incubus, the Deftones, and actually Blink 182. We saw them in L.A., actually them and the Deftones; they had shows while we were there. We like The Beatles, but of course everyone likes The Beatles. If Ben was on the phone, he would be shouting out bands like Motley Crue. He's a big 80s fan; he's the main reason for the Bon Jovi album being introduced in L.A. Anything big and anthemic, we generally like.

Describe your sound.

We're very melodic. We have a lot of energy. We try not to put out a lot of sleepers; we have a couple songs that are meaningful and slower, but generally we're a high-energy group.

We fall somewhere between punk and rock. We've had some people call us punk-rock, and we didn't think we were really punk, but... We've claimed the term punk 'n roll. We never try to just be one thing, but we feel comfortable being a straight up rock band.

Where have you gone on this tour?

Just finished first stop of this tour last night in Windsor and it was great. Our single's done well on the radio there and we've been there quite a few times now so the fan base is building up and it's starting to feel like home. People are singing along which means they've had the album a while. Definitely a lot of booze, but that was the audience and us, so it's alright. Chris is still hurting right now, but we'll definitely be ready for our second show tonight.

Where is the best place to play out of everywhere you've gone?

The best show has to be Edmonton right now, until another place steps up. Our hometown receives us really well. People don't only acknowledge singles, but all our albums. Everyone's really supportive; we get crowds in the thousands in Edmonton.

In Ontario, we're a big fan of

London, we've had some great shows there. Right now London and Windsor are the hot spots in this area. We hope our new single, *Whisper To A Scream*, which we're shooting the video for right away, will help. That should be released the first of the new year, and hopefully that will help build fans.

Get Connected in T.O.

CONCERT REVIEW Get Connected Tour

BY JAIME-ANNE WHITE

It was a dark cool evening last Wednesday when I set out for the Opera House to connect with *Little Brother* on the "Get Connected" tour.

About a half an hour before the show, there was no line-up, but there was a "jam van," a regular feature at hip-hop concerts in Toronto. I checked out the new CDs and haggled with the sales associate until bouncers were at the door and people were arriving. This was a rather short line, considering it was almost time for the show to begin. The bouncers predicted a short concert since only about sixty tickets were sold.

The small, quiet group of concert goers entered the subterranean atmosphere of the Opera House and were greeted by a deejay spinning appropriate tracks, like *Dead Prez's Hip Hop*. More people showed up and the crowd became a bit livelier.

An hour and a half passed with people just listening to music and talking. Suddenly, North Carolina's finest, *Phonte* and *Big Pooh* stepped onto the stage in an explosion of lights and energy, and the party was on. Group members *9th Wonder* and *Nicolay* were both absent from the concert, though they were part of the tour in other venues. We later learned that *Legacy* was not making an appearance either, but *Phonte* and *Pooh* made up for the absences.

They started with well-known tracks from *The Listening*, then introduced

Khrysis and *Sean Boog* of *The A.W.A.Y. Team*, who dressed in t-shirts with the slogan "Fuck Bush!" Those who didn't know of the *Justus League* members could sense they were in for some truly conscious music. The A.W.A.Y. team gained the audience's respect with songs like *Blah Blah Blah*.

Phonte then introduced *Yahzarah* and *Darien Brockington*, who have amazing voices; each showed off their talent. *Yahzarah*, petite as she is, filled the cavernous space with her beautiful voice. *Darien Brockington* sang with sultriness unfamiliar in hip hop artists. After doing some tracks from *Connected* and pulling some girls from the audience to dance, *Pooh* and *Phonte* went into some more tracks off of *The Listening*.

One of the many highlights of the evening was when the group opted to sing old school "slow jams" like *Ler's Stay Together* (Al Green). The energy and intensity was strong as everyone remembered the old-school hip hop songs. The audience sang along with the performers as they formed a soul train and showcased the widely known old dance styles of the past.

As the concert came to a close, *Little Brother* decided to all sign *Phonte's* hat and throw it into the audience. In true down-to-earth *Little Brother* style, the performers hung around, giving their fans a chance to talk and take pictures. The humility and modesty of the group drives many fans to support them. The connections with the audience made the Toronto edition of the "Get Connected Tour" a very enjoyable event.

City honours artists at MAC awards

BY JOHANNA KRISTOLAITIS

A mix of elegant dresses, tuxedos, and casual attire could be seen in the crowd attending the 10th annual Mississauga Arts Awards, held at the Living Arts Centre last Wednesday. The gala evening was presented by the Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) and included a silent auction.

The presentation began with the Mississauga Festival Youth Choir singing *Oh Canada* as they walked down the aisles and across the stage. Craig Marshall followed with a rendition of *Comedy Tonight* before comedian James Cunningham took the stage to reprise his role as host for the MAC awards. After a funny opening spiel, Cunningham introduced Bob

Pielsticker from KPMG to present the first award of the evening.

The nominees for this and all following awards were showcased through videos showing examples of their work and interviews with them regarding their art. This same screen in the centre of the backdrop allowed for a live feed of the artists as they made their way to the stage accompanied by the musical stylings of the Charles Cozens Trio.

The winners, in order of presentation, were: *Julia Tausch* (Emerging Literary Arts), *Winston Hacking* (Emerging Media Arts), *Shadia Simmons* (Emerging Performing Arts), *David Leask* (Established Performing Arts), *Billy Talent*

(Emerging Performing Arts - Group), *Mississauga Big Band Jazz Ensemble* (Established Performing Arts - Group), *Sylvia Bartosik* (Emerging Visual Arts), and *Margaret Squire* (Established Visual Arts).

In between awards, many artists entertained the audience with music and dance. Highlights included a fabulous tap dance group that fell into rhythm with the *Barenaked Ladies' One Week* and *Groupe des Arts Bassan*, a trio showcasing African music.

The *Laurie Pallett Patron* of the Arts Award ended the evening, presented to musician and teacher *Peggy Hills-McGuire* by Her Worship Mayor *Hazel McCallion*.

The University of Toronto Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the

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Deadline for nominations: Friday, December 10, 2004



FEATURES



RAMADAN MUBARAK

Sara Moosa dishes on the lunar month of Ramadan and the health benefits of fasting

My stomach growls as I make my way down the five minute walk to the student center. I glance at my watch. 6:35. "Three more minutes" I think to myself. A girl with a pink and white U of T hoodie rushes past me. Steam rises from the opening of her Tim Horton's cup. The smell of hot chocolate filters into my nostrils. I pull open the heavy glass door to the student center. A bright, red, construction paper sign reads *MSA Iftar*. As I enter, the smell of steamed rice and chicken curry wafts into my lungs. I salivate and my stomach growls again.

"Assalaam Walaikum Sister," greets a girl with a deep purple *hijab*.

I smile and line up at the buffet table.

"Man, I can't wait to break my fast," Fuad says, as he sounders up to me. He shoves his hands into the pockets of his GAP Warmest Vest and hops in anticipation as the line slowly moves forward.

Students glance through the wall to ceiling windows of the student center on their way to the North Building.

"What's all this? MSA parties have free food?" Oli exclaims, as he comes down the stairs from the SAP office. He grabs a date from the tray that's passed down the line and pops it in his mouth.

"It's for Ramadaan, we're breaking our fast," I grin, and give him a friendly punch on the arm.

"Oh yeah! What's all that about anyway?" he asks between chews.

Christians have Lent, Jews have Yom Kippur, and Muslims have Ramadan.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month on the Islamic lunar calendar. It is significant to Muslims because it's the month in which the first verses of the *Quran* (the holy book for Muslims) were revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). During Ramadan, from dawn to dusk, Muslims refrain from food, drink, and thoughts and acts of sensual pleasures – the three primary urges of human kind.

The sighting of the new moon signals the start of the month of Ramadan

(as it signals the beginning of each lunar month). Muslim's prepare for each day of fasting by waking up before dawn to have a breakfast called *Seri* or *Sahoor*. At sunset, the fast is broken with fresh or dry fruit and milk or water, followed by a dinner called *Iftar*. Generally, Muslims tend to prepare favourite foods for the *Iftar* meal. However, the purpose isn't to indulge, but rather to treat oneself after the long day of fasting. After *Iftar*, it is customary to go to the *Mosque* (the Muslim prayer hall) to participate in special prayers called *Taraweih*. During each night of *Taraweih* prayers, approximately one-thirtieth of the *Quran* is recited, so as to recite the entire book by the end of Ramadan.



Why Do Muslims Fast?

Fasting builds self-control and will power against natural urges and allows Muslims to develop compassion for the less fortunate in the world. Even if it's just a portion of what the underprivileged may endure, it shows Muslims the indulgence of our society and reliance on luxurious ways.

Another benefit to fasting is that Muslims around the world are unified in one global act. Whether black or white, rich or poor, young or old, all Muslims collectively participate in this humbling form of worship. By doing so, everyone is on an equal plain. Islam is a religion of unity – unity of God as well as the community. It's common practice for Muslims to hold large gatherings in their homes and community centers for *Iftars*. These gatherings encourage camaraderie and spiritual growth.

Fasting also purifies the body and the soul. Fasting isn't just about hunger, it's about spirituality.

Muslims are encouraged to partake in extra prayers during the month of Ramadan, as well as serve humanity through pious, kind and charitable actions. In addition, fasting provides numerous health benefits.

I pop a date into my mouth, pick up a styrofoam container of portioned food and balance a fork on top of the styrofoam. I faintly hear the call to prayer singing from the board room upstairs. Students begin to walk up the stairs that extend across the student centre. I set my styrofoam container on my table next to a chair that hangs Fuad's puffy vest, take a sip from my Dasani bottle, and head up the stairs. Students line in rows and prepare to pray. I wiggle out of my shoes and leave them by the boardroom door, and head over to join the prayer.

Spiritual Quote

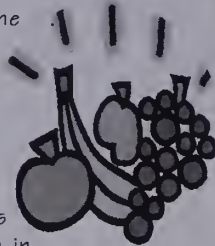
"There is an unseen sweetness in the stomach's emptiness. We are lutes. When the soundbox is filled, no music can come forth. When the brain and the belly are burning from fasting, every moment a new song rises out of the fire. The mists clear, and a new vitality makes you spring up the steps before you. Be empty and cry as a reed instrument. Be empty and write secrets with a reed pen. When satiated by food and drink, an unsightly metal statue is seated where your spirit should be. When fasting, good habits gather like helpful friends. Fasting is Solomon's ring. Don't give in to illusion and lose your power. But even when all will and control have been lost, they will return when you fast, like soldiers appearing out of the ground, or pennants flying in the breeze. A table descends to your tents, the Lord's table. Anticipate seeing it when fasting, this table spread with a different food, far better than the broth of cabbages."

- Coleman Barks "The Essential Rumi", Castle Books, 1997

Contribute to the Ramadan Food drive! Drop off non-perishable food items to the Student Centre MSA Iftars on Monday and Thursday evenings or at the Multifaith prayer room anytime.

The health benefits of Fasting

Technically, fasting only begins within the first twelve to twenty-four hours of the fast, when chemically, the body begins to use the fat and carbohydrate stores as an energy source. The fast continues as long as the body uses fat and carbohydrate stores (as opposed to protein stores) for energy. Once protein stores begin to be depleted for energy (resulting in loss of muscle mass) a person is officially starving.



Due to the lack of incoming energy, the body must turn to its own resources, a function called autolysis. Autolysis occurs when fat stores in the body break down to produce energy. The liver is in charge of converting the fats into a chemical called a ketone body, then distributing these bodies throughout the body via the blood stream. When this fat utilization occurs, free fatty acids release into the blood stream and the liver uses these acids for energy. The less you eat, the more your body turns to the stored fats and creates ketone bodies.

Detoxification is our body's way of eliminating or neutralizing toxins through the colon, liver, kidneys, lungs, lymph glands, and skin. When food is no longer entering the body, the body turns to fat reserves for energy. These fat reserves are created when excess glucose and carbohydrates are not used for energy or growth and not excreted. When the fat reserves are used for energy during a fast, they release the chemicals from the fatty acids into the system, which are then eliminated through the detoxification organs.

During a fast, energy is diverted away from the digestive system (since it's not being used) and towards the metabolism and immune system. The healing process during a fast is hastened by the body's search for energy sources. Since abnormal growths within the body (like Tumors) don't have full support of the body's resources, they're susceptible to autolysis (the breaking down of fat stores in the body in order to produce energy). Also, the production of protein for replacement of damaged cells (protein synthesis) occurs more efficiently because fewer 'mistakes' are made by the DNA/RNA genetic controls which govern this process. A higher efficiency in protein synthesis results in healthier cells, tissues and organs, which is why animals stop eating when they are wounded, and why humans lose their appetites during influenza. Hunger has been proven absent in illnesses such as gastritis, tonsillitis and colds. When people fast, their bodies consciously divert energy from the digestive system to the immune system.

An interesting advantage to fasting is the feeling of rejuvenation and an extended life expectancy. In addition to the Human Growth Hormone that is released more frequently during a fast, an anti-aging hormone is also produced more efficiently. According to Professor C.M. Childs of the University of Chicago's Zoology Department, the only reliable way to extend the lifespan of a mammal is under-nutrition without malnutrition. A study by the Zoology Department of the University of Chicago, on earthworms, demonstrated the extension of life due to fasting. The experimenter isolated one worm and put it on a cycle of fasting and feeding. The isolated worm outlasted its relatives by 19 generations, while maintaining its youthful physiological traits. The worm was able to survive on its own tissue for months. Once the size of the worm began to decrease, the scientists resumed feeding it, at which point it showed great vigor and energy. That's like keeping a man alive for 600 to 700 years!

As beneficial as fasting appears to be, some doctors warn against fasting for extended periods of time without supervision, and many have evidence to support their claim that fasting is detrimental to one's health. The idea of depriving a body, in a society that views food essential to our healing, continues to be a topic of controversy.

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Information and application forms are also available at www.alumni.utoronto.ca

Restaurant Review: *Apricot Tree Café*

Food Critic *Kimberly Morrison* steps off campus to bring us another delicious review.

This week, the restaurant of choice was found not too far away from the UTM campus. Apricot Tree Café, located on the south side of Dundas between Mississauga Road and Erin Mills is a noteworthy bistro of casual sophistication. The location of the restaurant among trendy boutiques and cobblestone walkways evokes an upscale Yorkville-esque atmosphere within our very own city of Mississauga.

The first thing that will draw your attention upon entering the restaurant is the large glass display case featuring flaky strudels and tantalizing cakes. As the friendly staff names them off, your eyes will widen with anticipation upon hearing the description of white chocolate raspberry mousse, key lime pie and multi-layered Toblerone cheesecake. Behind the display case is the large open wooden kitchen where Austrian chef, Franz Hochholdinger, prepares desserts right on the premise.

The dining area is quaint with small wooden tables and chairs and silverware wrapped in pressed white linen. Ambient French music plays softly in the background to pall the chatter and chuckles of a very adult crowd. A whiteboard on the wall marks daily features such as Poached Salmon Salad, Shrimp Flatbread and Garden Vegetable Quiche, which ranged in price from \$5.50 to \$12.

Heading straight for the dessert section of the menu first, I lingered over lists of home-made ice creams, crepes, mousses and cakes. For a prix-fix of 26 dollars there is a six-course sampling dessert menu for two. Restraining myself, I carried on to the lunch menu, and found a lovely assortment of salads such as the Apricot Tree which is a spring mix of lettuce, blue cheese, almonds, dried apricots and carrots in a citrus dressing, and the Artichoke salad, which is comprised of artichokes, red onion, black olives, diced tomatoes and parmesan cheese in a white wine vinaigrette. Aside from the standard deli-type sandwiches and club wraps, the menu offers a variety of crepes. Not the ice cream and fudge laden dessert crêpes à la Demétrés (though they have that kind too!), I'm talking about European luncheon crepes paired with delightful fillings such as Chicken in Tarragon Cream, Seafood Medley in Lemon Dill Cream and Baby Shrimp in Rose Sauce.

Since I was planning on indulging in dessert later, I opted for a lighter fare and ordered a vegetable quiche with salad (\$5.50). Halfway through my cup of coffee later, I was surprised at the generous portion of food that my server had placed in front of me. The quiche was as high as my three-inch stiletto

heel, and was loaded with vegetables and cheese. On the slight downside, my salad was slightly overdressed and on the oily side and the pastry crust of the quiche was slightly burnt on the edge, presumably from being re-warmed. However, the quiche filling was done exactly right: light, fluffy and flavourful. Just like it was made in Quebec by my very own grandmother.

As the restaurant started to fill up with the lunch crowd, I quickly ventured over to the glass display case to reserve a slice of pumpkin cheesecake (\$4.95), in light of the autumn season. The unique blend combined the warm goodness of spiced pumpkin pie with the smooth rich texture of cheesecake, utterly a flavor to die for. Equally attractive was the presentation of the cake on a large plate drizzled with a lacing of vanilla sauce and raspberry compote.

At the end of the meal I felt satisfied and cheery. The bill came to \$35 including tax and tip for two.

If you are looking for a place with made-to-order unique creations of food and not cookie-cutter chain-restaurant chow, if you are fond of culture and class without the pretentiousness, and if you appreciate quality without hurting your wallet, check out the Apricot Tree Café in Sherwood Forest Village.

Remember, don't forget to tip your server!

Free Light Show on Wednesday

By *Nadeem Basaria*

This Wednesday, October 27, the night sky will witness a total lunar eclipse, and the last eclipse of 2004. The cold, rocky chunk that orbits our planet will shine colours from bright orange to blood red to dark brown, fascinating night watchers across the globe.

The earth's shadow is made up of two cone-shaped parts, the penumbra (outer shadow) and the umbra (inner shadow). The penumbra blocks some of the sun's rays, while the umbra blocks all of them. During a total lunar eclipse, the entire moon passes through the earth's umbra, revealing an astonishing sight.

Even though we see a full moon about once a month, we only observe a lunar eclipse two to four times a year, because the full moon spends most of its time either above or below the plane of the earth's orbit.

During a total lunar eclipse, spectators on the night side of the earth see a stellar sight in the sky. While the earth's umbral shadow blocks all direct sunlight from reaching the moon, indirect sunlight still hits. But this indirect sunlight passes through the earth's atmosphere before it hits the moon and most of the blue light is filtered out, leaving only deep red or orange light. On top of that, the earth's atmosphere bends some of the indirect light before it hits the moon. The filtered and bent light on the moon gives us the colorful array we see during a lunar eclipse.

So on Wednesday, make sure you take some time out from studying for that exam or writing that paper to step outside, look up, and admire the moon. And gaze for as long as you want because unlike solar eclipses, lunar eclipses are completely safe to watch. You'll see a beautiful sight with your own bare eyes. Enjoy!

Source: www.mreclipse.com

Moon

By *Tiffany Low Foon*

Great white ball, in the sky,
Have you ever paused and cried?
From the bang of our birth,
up above you've seen the Earth.

Great white ball, I admire thee,
The changing Earth, you did see.
What saw you, when the times changed?
Humanity victorious? Breaking its chains?

Great white ball, what happens now?
Some have predicted destruction and vowed,
from the heavens, fire will rain.
Will that bring humanity's bane?



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For more information, contact the Chief Returning Officer at cro@ecsu.ca

SPORTS

Mid-season review: five team co-ed intramural softball

BY SUNNY PATHAK

The co-ed intramural softball season kicked off October 5th with 5 teams, including the summer league champions, Campus Police.

The first night saw the Tyrannosaurus-Rez play a double header against Campus Police and The Softballs.

The T-Rez, captained by Angelia Treglia and Tyler Reitsma, were missing two key players against the Campus Police team. The cop team, led by Mike Bell, put on a defensive clinic and played like a well-oiled machine. Buck 'The Hammer' hit two home runs and Shawn Lenny hit one to the opposite field as they lead the charge to a 10-2 win.

In the second game, T-Rez took on the Softballs, captained by Ryan Edwards, with a surprise varsity player. The T-Rez played well, matching their high in runs in the first inning and setting a new record for hits in a game. The Softballs, however, had other ideas,

as four players hit home runs. Gurminder, Ryan, Matt and Miron each had blasts that went the length of the field. Final score: 17-3 for Softballs.

In the second day of action, the Softballs took on Those Random Guys. Chris had a solo and a three-run homerun and John hit a 3-run homerun. The Random Guys, captained by Nitin Mistry, played very well. Final score: 7-5 for the Softballs.

The second game of the night put the Long Bombers, lead by Jordan Latorre, against the Campus Police. Lindsay hit a blast that went over the left fielders head, and had the only home run for the Campus Police. John Brown started off the season with a solo homerun inside the right foul line. Solid hitting from both teams combining for 44 hits and great defensive play made this a close match. The Campus Police, showing trust in their team mates, were able to stay calm and prevail 13-10.

After the first week of games, the Campus Police were 2-0, followed by the 1-0 Softballs, 1-1 Long Bombers, 0-1 Those Random Guys and Tyrannosaurus-Rez at 0-2.

The second week of action saw Those Random Guys take on the Long Bombers. John Brown opened the game with a triple, and was left stranded. Those Random Guys came out strong scoring three quick runs, as Martin, Andrew, Jeremy and Nitin had four consecutive triples! The Long Bombers quickly put runners on first and second with back to back singles. Justin Sconci hit a line drive homerun to tie the game up followed by back to back triples, a single, and then back to back triples again. The flurry of hits opened the game as the mercy rule came into effect. Jeremy, for Those Random Guys, put on a defensive clinic, robbing Latorre, not once but twice of an extra base hit. Showing his defensive gold glove, Jeremy showed off his homerun ability with a solo in the

home-half of the third. In the fourth, Eric also hit a solo homerun. That however, was not enough as the Longbombers won 14-6.

The second game was a double header with the Long Bombers and Tyrannosaurus-Rez. Dale Mullings, all-star shortstop for the T-Rez, was a defensive presence early on, and went 3-3 on the night with two singles and a double. The T-Rez quickly put two runs on the board in the first. In the home half, the Long Bombers put up six. In the second, the T-Rez put seven on the board, bringing the mercy rule into effect. Solid hitting from Tyler, Jim and Meghan with back to back singles brought Dale Mullings to the plate with a bases clearing double. Matt brought Dale home on a double Angela and Tim also scored.

Adam and Jordan responded each with solo homeruns. After two innings the score was 9-8 for T-Rez. A rally started with Kat, Tyler and Jim with back to back singles. A fly out by Emily and Meghan,

brought Dale up to bat. His single brought in all three runners. Mike, John, Adam, Jordan, and Nat scored. Tim, Laura and Kat tried their best, to keep the game alive, but to no avail. Final score, 15-12, Long Bombers.

On Wednesday night, the two teams with undefeated records played one another. Campus Police took on the Softballs. On paper, this was supposed to be an excellent game. Missing several key players from their line-up, the Campus Police did their best. The Softballs started at one point their own home run derby. Ryan Edwards had two mammoth blasts that went the distance of the field and Craig followed with a tear drop homerun in right field. Solid defensive from Gurminder, kept the innings short. Paul Nazar scored the first run in the first, followed by a solo homerun from Ivan. The rally caps came on in the third inning with 3 runs, Nazar popped out to end the inning.

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Toronto Raptors 2004-2005 season preview

BY MICHAEL SINGH

The Toronto Raptors enter this season with a completely revamped look off the court, along with another new look at head coach. After many dismal seasons the Raptors finally decided to make a change at GM, letting go of Glen Grunwald and hiring Rob Babcock from the Minnesota Timberwolves. Babcock has been the director of player personnel in Minnesota, so he has made many decisions on player talent, which has been missing in Toronto with Grunwald. The Raptors hope Babcock will be able to locate some hidden gems and deliver some quality players to help the Raptors stars.

With the firing of Grunwald, the Raptors also decided to get rid of Kevin O'Neil, who never really seemed to mesh with the management of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment (MLSE). O'Neil and MLSE always clashed with each other in the media, behind closed doors and especially after the Raptors missed the postseason again for the second consecutive year. This will mark the third coach in the past three years for the Raptors, as Sam Mitchell takes over the coaching duties for the Raptors. Mitchell was an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks the past two years and he hopes to revitalize a team where offense seems to be a foreign idea. He is hoping to bring a run and gun style of offense to a team that relies heavily on Vince Carter to bail them out night after night.

Vince Carter has been the center of attention in the Raptors off season since he requested to be traded during the summer. The Raptors have said they would not trade Carter unless a very fair deal was given to them and they have yet to receive one. Carter has been much maligned over the past three seasons, missing many games with various injuries, but Carter did show improvement last season, only missing nine games, while being the second highest scorer in the league after the all-star break. Carter is the center of the Raptors and they will not trade him unless they receive a great deal or his trade demand starts to affect the team. Carter has looked explosive so far this preseason in the

Raptors new offense, so if this continues fans may see Carter back off his trade demands.

The rest of the Raptors squad looks good enough to make a playoff push. The core of the Raptors is set with Carter, Jalen Rose and Chris Bosh. Bosh was phenomenal as a rookie for the Raptors, starting for most of the season, providing scoring and rebounding to a weak front court. Bosh has the ability to become a very good player in the league and the Raptors like what they see from Bosh so far this year in training camp. Jalen Rose was asked to play the point last season due to the fact the Raptors did not have a true point guard. This season, however, Jalen Rose can move back to his true position at small forward since the Raptors have signed Rafer Alston to be their starting point guard. With Rose back at small forward he should be more comfortable in an offense where he will not have to handle the ball the majority of the time. Alston was with the Raptors before last year but the Raptors decided not to resign him, which resulted in him going to Miami, playing very well off the bench and forcing the Raptors to shell out big money to bring him back this year. Alston is a player who likes to run the court and can manage the high tempo offense Mitchell wants to instill in the Raptors.

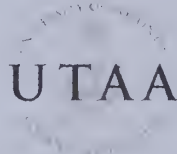
The Raptors still have many question marks, however, such as their center position. The Raptors are set right now at power forward with Bosh and Donyell Marshall, but they do not have a center that is capable of starting. The duties of center will be split between Loren Woods, Jerome Moiso and rookie Rafael Arujo. None of the three players are hy any stretch of the imagination starters in the league but each will see time at the five spot for the Raptors. Another question that comes up every year with the Raptors is health. Will the Raptors be able to stay healthy or will they be hit by the injury bug again? If the Raptors are able to stay healthy they should be able to make a push for one of the final playoff spots but if they lose any key player for a significant amount of time, they could be heading home early once again.



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Row, row, row your fro



photo/Patrick Oken

Members of UTM's rowing team enjoy a comfortable lead over McMaster at the Pumpkin Regatta last Saturday. Organized by the Bayside Rowing Club, the event encouraged participants to wear halloween costumes and emphasized fun over competition. The Toronto skyline can be seen in the background.

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Boston Red Sox complete greatest comeback in baseball history by winning series after trailing by three games

BY MICHAEL SINGH

Why not us? That was the slogan going around the Boston locker room after the game three beating the Yankees put on them. The Red Sox were down 3-0 in the series, the 26th time in baseball history that has happened. The previous 25 times, the team down 3-0 had lost, including being swept 20 of those times. However, these were the Boston Red Sox, the cursed franchise, they could not comeback against the almighty Yankees. That was the belief of just about every baseball fan. For their part, the Red Sox did not listen to anybody. They kept the faith and shocked everybody by coming back and winning

four straight games to knock off the Yankees for the ALCS.

The Red Sox found different ways to win every game, including the heroics of David Ortiz, who had two game winning hits in extra innings, the Boston bullpen that shut down the Yankees powerful lineup in the four victories, and finally the classic performance of Curt Schilling, pitching on a torn ankle. The Red Sox played their hearts out every game and deserved to win the series against a Yankees team that completed the greatest collapse in baseball history with a game seven loss at home.

The Red Sox looked like they were done in game four when they

entered the ninth inning down a run with Mariano Rivera looking to save another postseason game. The Red Sox did not give up, however, as they got a lead off walk, a stolen base and then a single that drove home the tying run. Then in the bottom of the 12th inning, David Ortiz hit a two run walk off home-run, which gave life to Boston in the series.

The next day Ortiz did it again, as the Red Sox sent the series back to New York on another game winning hit by Ortiz. The Red Sox were able to get to Rivera again, causing him to blow his save and the game remained tied until the bottom of the 14th, when Ortiz

fought off a pitch to get a single and drive home Johnny Damon from second.

This brought up Curt Schilling in game six, who put on one of the greatest performances in sports history, shutting down the Yankees on an ankle with a torn tendon. Schilling pitched brilliantly; allowing only four hits and one run in seven innings, leading the Red Sox to a victory and game seven.

In game seven, the Red Sox came out flying, scoring two in the first on a David Ortiz two-run homer and then blew the game open in the second with a grand slam by Damon that gave them a 6-0 lead. The Yankees were outplayed and

outclassed in game seven at home, as the Red Sox completed the greatest comeback in the history of major league baseball.

There is one question that remains now for the Red Sox, is the curse still there? The curse has lived on since 1918, but with this comeback, some think the curse has been vanquished. The Red Sox can prove it if they are able to beat the St. Louis Cardinals and bring home the World Series to the Red Sox nation. If they fail to win the championship after their unbelievable series against the Yankees, however, the talk of the curse will start up all over again and will continue until they win that elusive title.



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Sunday October 31st @ noon

Mens' Tri-Campus Soccer vs. St. George B

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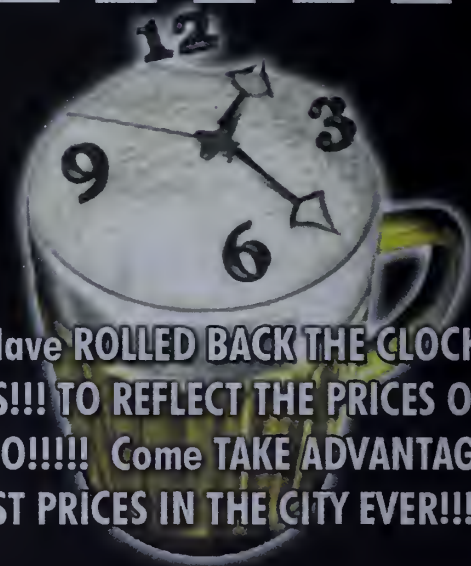
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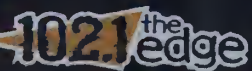
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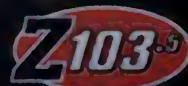
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